

TOWN MANAGER

As I write this on my last day as Town Manager of Westford, there are so many images and recollections that are going through my mind in the eight years that I have served the community. There are many things that I am proud of, and I feel privileged that the selectmen have given me freedom to approach things and solve problems in my own way. The thing that I am proudest of is the extremely talented and dedicated staff that serves Westford on a daily basis. I have been in local government management for over thirty years, and I have to say, this group of people is the finest I have ever worked with. For some reason, I have been in a Teddy Roosevelt state of mind today, and several of his quotes have been sounding in my ears. To quote Teddy Roosevelt:

"The best executive is one who has sense enough to pick good people to do what he wants them to do and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it."

I have tried hard to live up to this and hope I have succeeded to some degree.

There are too many people to thank for their support over the years to mention. This Town should be proud of the dedication of not only the employees, but those appointed and elected officials who toil constantly with the problems and controversies of the day.

Once again, Teddy describes my thinking perfectly:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause, who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

I wish you all peace.

Goodbye and thank you,

Steven L. Ledoux

Town Manager

February 8, 2008